

THE AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 20:

This is due to the fact, that in about 30% of ~~samples~~ sample metaplastic cells show some immunoreactivity with p16 INK4a specific antibodies, and thus are stained in the course of the procedures. Yet the staining pattern yielded from these metaplastic cells differs from the pattern, which renders from neoplastic lesions. Metaplastic cells give rise to a patchy or focal staining pattern, whereas neoplastic lesions give rise to diffuse staining pattern. Moreover, the staining intensities of metaplastic cells are predominantly less than that of neoplastic cells.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 16:

The discrimination according to the present invention is based on the presence or absence of cells expressing ~~an~~ a high risk HPV gene-product and on the presence or absence of cells overexpressing p16^{INK4a} in said sample. The cells expressing the high risk HPV gene-products such as E2 need not be the same cells as those overexpressing p16^{INK4a} although the expression of both marker molecules may occur in the same cells.